

Appl. No. 09/306,813
Reply to Office Action of October 19, 2006

REMARKS

Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter with respect to claims 2-4. In light of the current claim modifications and in light of the Interview conducted with the Examiner on November 16, 2006, Applicants submit that all claims now stand in condition for allowance.

Applicants have amended claims 1, 5, and 6 in order to obviate the Examiner's 35 U.S.C. §112 rejection. More specifically, these claims have been amended in order to remove the third input selection which had been added in a prior amendment.

Additionally, a limitation has been added to claims 1, 5, and 6 commensurate with the scope of claims 2 – 4. As a result, Applicants submit that these claims are now more aligned with the language used in allowed claims 2 – 4. As acknowledged by the Examiner in the last Office Action, none of the closest cited references of record fairly teach or suggest a solid state image pickup device comprising a first switch circuit is operable to selectively connect a first input of the transfer register to one of a group comprised of a first pulse signal and a float level, and an alternative driving source signal which is operable to drive the first input of the signal transfer device after the first switch signal switches to the float level.

As the 35 U.S.C. §112 rejection was the only outstanding rejection in the last Office Action, and neither one of the Ando, Maki, or Endo references, alone or in combination, teach or suggest all the limitations of the currently claimed invention, Applicants submit that all claims must now be placed into condition for allowance.

As described in the specification, by driving an input of the signal transfer register to a fixed voltage level, power consumption of the device is reduced. Additionally, but setting

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an input of the transfer register to a floating logic level, an alternate driver can then drive that input at a different rate or pattern.

Examiner's remaining references cited but not relied upon, considered either alone or in combination, also fail to teach applicant's currently claimed invention. In light of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that all claims now stand in condition for allowance.

Date:

12/16/06

Respectfully submitted,

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